

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 30, 2004. Claims 1 to 20, 22 to 55 and 57 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 54 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 21 to 35 and 45 to 53. Based on that indication, Claim 21 has been cancelled, and the substance thereof has been incorporated into each of independent Claims 1 and 54, wherefore it is believed that all claims are now fully in condition for allowance.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The subject matter forming the basis for the rejection has been cancelled from the claims, without conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 to 18, 36 to 44, 55 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the article "The Phoenix Framework: A Practical Architecture For Programmable Networks" (Yadav), Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yadav in view of U.S. Patent 5,926,539 (Shtivelman), and Claims 19, 20 and 54 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yadav in view of U.S. Patent 6,073,184. The foregoing actions were taken without conceding the correctness of these rejections, in an effort to advance this case toward allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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